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(195 /) Department.

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G.O. No. 783

Dated 2 - 4-1957

[Despatch Abstract.]

Education - Governors conference - General discussion on National Language versus Regional Languages - Papers Recorded.

NOTE on the intrdduction of Hindi in the curriculum of the secondary schools in the State.

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SUB: GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE - General discussion on the national language versus regional language

REF: Confidential D.O. dated 3-3-51 of the Secretary to the Government, Education Department.

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In 1938-39 Hindustani was introduced by the first Congress Ministry as a new compulsory subject of study in forms I to III in 125 selected secondary schools. This compulsory study of an additional language was extended to 100 more schools in 1939-40. The no. of periods allotted to the study of Hindustani in 1938-39 was 3. per week). The study of this such language was compulsory, in the sense that the attendance in such schools was obligatory and it was an addition to one of the local or regional languages that every pupil had to study.

2. "This policy of compulsion has aroused oppossition and resentment amongst a considerable section of the public" in the words of the Press Communique No. 21 dated 21st February 1940. An agitation against such compulsory study of ~~Hindi~~, an additional language, in forms I to III was started by certain sections of the public on the ground that own additional language is a strain on the young pupils of forms I to III and that it would interfere with the mastery of their own mother tongue and the attainment of the proper place by the regional languages.

3. Hence Government ordered in 1940 that the attendance to the classes was to be optional and not compulsory. At the same time, the study of Hindistani as an optional language was also extended to forms IV to VI. So, from 1940 to 1946, the study of Hindustani in those 125 plus 100 schools was made optional.

4. In 1946 Government reviewed the position and ordered that provision for the study of Hindustani in forms II to IV In all high schools in the Province (State) should be made. The study was, however, optional and not compulsory as in 1938-39.

5. In 1948 the position was reviewed while introducing the scheme of reorganization of secondary education, and Government ordered;

i) that Hindustani should be taught in forms I to III instead of in forms II to IV,

ii) that students should be allowed the option to take Hindustani or any other classical language,

iii) that Hindustani or its alternative should be the second language, the regional language being the first language,

iv) that the study of Hindustani or its alternative should be a compulsory subject for examination.

In addition, provision was also made to the optional study of Hindustani in forms IV to VI as a second language.

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6. The obligation to appear for an examination in Hindustani or any other language included in the group of second languages once again kindled the opposition, the fear being that an examination in Hindi will stand as an obstacle in the way of promotion of many pupils of the State, to whom Hindi is a language totally different from their mother tongues. Another section felt that a pupil desiring to study a classical language such as Sanskrit would have to do so only at the expense of the national language and that this arrangement told on the importance of the classical languages.

7. Taking the above facts into consideration and on the recommendations of the Expert Committee appointed by Government and endorsed by the Provincial Advisory Board of Education, Government in their Order No.2121, Education dated 27-7-50 issued orders making Hindi as an optional language for study in all the secondary schools allowing at the same time the choice to those who do not want Hindi to learn an additional craft or occupy themselves in any other approved activity.

8. The present position is that it is compulsroy on the part of the management of every secondary school to provide for the teaching of Hindi though the pupils have the option to study this language or a craft. Government have ordered that the expenditure on this provison should be taken into account for purposes of calculating teaching grant, irrespective of the number of pupils that may attend the Hindi classes. Out of 103194 pupils studying in Form I on 31-3-50, 94369 took up Hindi. Hindi is a subject for the class as well as the S.S.L.C. Public examination, but success or failure in it will not affect the promotion or the eligiblity as the case may be.

9. The educational authorities in general are in favour of encouraging the study of Hindi in the secondary schools, though they do not feel it necessary, at present, to make its study compulsory.

GOVERNORS CONFERENCE - General discussion on National Language versus regional Language.

With regard to the subject matter of the Governors' Conference as on page 1 c.f., it is submitted that provision for the study of Hindi in Colleges is made in accordance with the regulations of the University authorities. The University being an autonomous body, the Government do not interfere in its actions. The University Education Commission has recommended among other things, the introduction of the teaching of the federal language in all classes of higher secondary schools, in Degree Colleges and in Universities. So far as the University courses are concerned, the Universities have taken steps to make adequate provision for the study of Hindi for students who wish to offer for the subject. No action on the part of the Government is therefore called for in respect of the study of the subject in Collges.

The Director of Public Instruction has submitted a note on the study of Hindi in the secondary schools in the State. He has referred to the public reactions to the policy of compulsion so far as the Hindi is concerned and has traced the history of the introduction of Hindi in secondary schools from 1938 onwards. The following observations may also be made on this subject:-

(1) In secondary schools, the student will have 35 periods a week for all the subjects included in the curriculum of studies, out of which only 15 periods can be utilized for the study of languages. The compulsory study of the mother-tongue or the regional language has to be given the first place, in the scheme of language studies. The need for this as admitted by everyone.

(2). Provision has to be made for Sanskrit or other Indian languages and also for English in view of its being the medium of instruction in Colleges.

(3) Provision has in addition to be made for the study of Hindi for those students who wish to offer for it. Government have given much anxious thought to the question whether Hindi should be introduced as a compulsory subject and have come to the conclusion that compulsion is unnecessary, especially in a non-Hindi speaking area, but that adequate provision should be made for its study in every school. That this policy has borne fruit may be seen from the figures given by the D.P.I in the penultimate paragraph of his note.

(4). The policy of making Hindi a subject for study for these who wish to offer for its study (such of these as do not wish to offer, being left to engage in other approved subjects in the syllabus such as crafts) has been evolved after consultation with the Education Department and the expert bodies like the South Indian Teachers' Union and the Headmasters' Association. This has been welcomed by almost all sections of the population including the majority of the Members of the Legislature. A copy of the proceedings of the debate on secondary education held in the Aseembly on the 12th Augst1950

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is put up and will be found on pages 624 to 667 of the official report, volume III. Even a body like the Dravida Kazhagam which would have very strongly objected to compulsory study of Hindi is not making any criticism of the orders of the Government.

(5) Steps have been taken for the training of Hindi teachers for the employment in schools. The local bodies in the schools undertaken and the Government, in the case of Govt. or private schools bear the expenses connected with the training of Hindi teachers.

(6). The Hindi teachers with the prescribed qualifications have been placed on a par with the L.T. Assistants in the matter of the scales of pay (Rs. 75-145 for local bodies and Rs. 85-175 in the case of Govt. schools.)

3. Hindi being the federal language under the Articles of the Constitution, the Govt. have taken all steps necessary, so far as this State is concerned, for the development of the language. The policy which has been adopted by this Government regarding the study of Hindi in secondary schools in the State has removed to a large extent, whatever conflict might have existed between the federal language and the regional language and is working very satisfactorily.

(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxx
Secry. to Govt.

I have passed the note and put up a D.O. to the Governors' Secretary. For approval.

(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxxx
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(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxxx
FINANCE MINISTER.

(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
CHIEF MINISTER.

(D.O.No.8233 - B/51-2 Education, dated 10-3-51.)

From the Governor's Secretary, D.O.No.265/51 dated 22-3-51.

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Pleas see the D.O. from the Governor's sSecretary on page 11 c.f., The papers may be recorded as a G.O. for future reference. Hon'ble Minister (Education) may see.

(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxx
Secreatary to Govt.

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EDUCATION MINISTER.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ABSTRACT.

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EDUCATION - Governors' Conference - General discussion National Language versus regional language - Papers - Recorded.

Education Department.

G.O.Ms.No.783 Dated 2nd April 1951.

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ORDER:

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(By order of the etc.)

(Sd.) xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Secry. to Govt.

(TRUE COPY)

R Thiagarajan 12.9.56

": SUPERINTENDENT :"
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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